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TELEGRAM (1697)

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INR 07, P 04, CIA 04, DOD 01, SP 02, SS 35, AID 30, NIC 01, RSR 01, /137 W

R 160545Z SEP 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6978
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4265
CINCPAC FOR POLAD
AMCONSUL DANANG 970
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2545

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SAIGON 6160

SUBJ: LOWER HOUSE ELECTION CANDIDATES: DALAT

1. TWENTY-SEVEN CANDIDATES FILED FOR DALAT'S SINGLE LOWER HOUSE SEAT. ON SEPTEMBER 13, THE DALAT ELECTION COUNCIL ELIMINATED THREE CANDIDATES WHOSE DOSSIERS WERE IMCOMPLETE. THESE HAVE THE RIGHT OF APPEAL. AS FOUR OTHERS HAVE WITHDRAWN, THE FOLLOWING 20 CANDIDATES REMAIN IN THE RACE AS OF SEPTEMBER 15:

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 6160/1 C O N F I D E N T I A L

A. DINH VAN DE - BORN 28 MARCH 1928, CHAU DOC. CAO DAI. ARVN LIEUTENANT COLONEL. 1944-5 UNIVERSITY OF SAIGON; 1952, GRADUATED FROM THU DUC MILITARY ACADEMY; 1954-63, CHIEF OF CABINET TO CHIEF OF STAFF, ARVN; 1963-4, PROVINCE CHIEF OF TUYEN DUC AND CONCURRENTLY MAYOR OF DALAT; 1964 TO PRESENT PROVINCE CHIEF OF BINH THUAN.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Jean Izzuberg DATE: 12/24/81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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[redacted] IS WELL KNOWN IN DALAT, BUT WILL BE HAMPERED BY CHARGES OF CORRUPTION LEVELED AGAINST HIM.

B. NGUYEN BANG - BORN 3 MAY 1930, THANH HOA. CATHOLIC. FORMERLY SECRETARY IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE OF DALAT; NOW RETIRED. REPORTEDLY INVOLVED IN SOME SHADY LAND TRANSACTIONS; REPRESENTED WINNING UPPER HOUSE SLATE NO. 8 OF NGUYEN GIA HIEN IN RECENT ELECTIONS; MAY HAVE BACKING OF WEAK GREATER SOLIDA COD#FORCES ORGANIZATION IN DALAT.

PAGE 3 RUMJIR 6160/1 C O N F I D E N T I A L

C. NGUYEN VAN BAO - BORN 16 APRIL 1935 IN THAI BINH. CATHLIC. ARVN CAPTAIN. FORMER GAN LAO MEMBER. OFFICER IN PRESS SECTION OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE.

D. VO DE - BORN 13 APRIL 1929 IN QUANG NGAI. BUDDHIST. ARVN LIEUTENANT. INSTRUCTOR AT DALAT MILITARY ACADEMY.

E. HOANG TRI - BORN 1 JANUARY 1901 IN THAU THIEN, BUDDHIST, BUSINESSMAN AND MEMBER OF THE DALAT MUNICIPAL COUNCIL. DEFEATED IN 1966 RACE FOR DALAT'S CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY SEAT.

F. LE THANH CHAU - BORN 25 DECEMBER 1938 IN THAI BINH. CATHOLIC. GRADUATE OF UNIVERSITY OF SAIGON. FORMER TEACHER AT TRAN HUNG DAO HIGH SCHOOL IN DALAT. ELECTED SEC GEN OF DALAT TUYEN DUC LIEN DOAN BRANCH OF THE CATHOLIC GREATER SOLIDARITY FORCES IN 1966. WITH SOLID SUPPORT OF CATHOLIC CLERGY AND LAYMAN, CHAU WON THE 1966 RACE FOR DALAT'S CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY SEAT. AN INTELLIGENT AND ACTIVE DEPUTY WHO HELD SEVERAL MINOR POSTS IN THE ASSEMBLY.

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G. NGUYEN HUU TINH - BORN 7 JULY 1930, QUANG BINH.

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PROBABLY CATHOLIC. OFFICER IN THE NATIONAL POLICE; UNTIL RECENTLY CHIEF OF THE DALAT-TUYEN DUC PROVINCIAL INTERROGATION CENTER; PART-TIME PLAYWRIGHT. [redacted] b-1 ed

H. TRAN TU - BORN 16 FEBRUARY 1934, BAC NINH.
BUDDHIST. ARVN, CAPTAIN. DENTIST AT THE CONG HOA MILITARY HOSPITAL; MEMBER TUYEN DUC PROVINCIAL COUNCIL.

I. PHAN XUAN THO - BORN 15 AUGUST 1936, SAIGON.
AIR VIETNAM PILOT.

J. NGUYEN XUAN TY - BORN 5 OCTOBER 1895, HAI PHONG.
ANCESTOR-WORSHIPER, AN ELDERLY DALAT NOTABLE WHO WAS THE DALAT REPRESENTATIVE OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE PHAN KHAC SUU.

K. LE CANH VE - BORN 20 MARCH 1920, THAU THIEN.
BUDDHIST. OFFICER IN THE NATIONAL POLICE. FORMERLY POLICE

PAGE 5 RUMJIR 6160/1 C O N F I D E N T I A L
CHIEF IN HUE, WHERE HE AND WIFE HAVE CONSIDERABLE PROPERTY. UNTIL RECENTLY CHIEF OF POLICE IN TUYEN DUC PROVINCE.
[redacted]

L. MRS. NGO THI LIEN - BORN 20 APRIL 1934, HANOI,
CATHOLIC, WIFE OF HOANG ANH TUAN, DIRECTOR OF RADIO DALAT, WHO RECENTLY WITHDREW HIS OWN CANDIDACY. LIEN REPORTEDLY HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE SAIGON NEWSPAPER, SONG.

M. NGUYEN DUY QUANG - BORN 7 JUNE 1915, HA DONG.
BUDDHIST. PHARMACIST. FORMERLY CHAIRMAN NOW MEMBER OF DALAT MUNICIPAL COUNCIL. [redacted] b-1 ed

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RUNNER-UP IN 1966 ELECTION FOR DALAT'S CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY SEAT; FRIEND OF SENATOR-ELECT DANG VAN SUNG.

N. PHAM VAN KIEN - BORN 14 MAY 1914, QUANG BINH. BUILDING CONTRACTOR.

O. TRUONG BAO SON - BORN 15 JANUARY 1916, HANOI.

PAGE 6 RUMJIR 6160/1 C O N F I D E N T I A L
PROBABLY BUDDHIST. ERSTWHILE WRITER UNDER PEN NAME BAO SON.
AMONGST EDUCATED PEOPLE IN DALAT HE HAS A REPUTATION OF BEING A POOR, RETIRING BUT HONEST INTELLECTUAL.

P. NGUYEN XUAN TINH - BORN 1 JUNE 1925, THANH HOA. FARMER.

Q. NGUYEN DUY VAN - BORN 16 MAY 1932, HANOI. CIVIL SERVANT.

R. NGUYEN BANG TUNG - BORN 1908, QUANG TRI. BUSINESSMAN, PROPRIETOR OF THANH TUNG HOTEL.

S. NGUYEN NGOC BICH - BORN 17 SEPTEMBER 1942, HANOI. PHARMACIST, SON OF AN INSTRUCTOR AT THE TRAN HUNG DAO HIGH SCHOOL, DALAT.

2. THE FOLLOWING THREE CANDIDATES WERE REJECTED FOR HAVING SUBMITTED INCOMPLETE DOSSIERS:

BUNKER

AS RECEVED. WILL BE SERVICED UPON REQUEST.

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ACTION EA 19

INFO SAL 01, GPM 03, SC 01, RSC 01, USIA 12, H 02, NSC 10, NSAE 00, L 03,
INR 07, P 04, CIA 04, DOD 01, SP 02, SS 35, AID 30, NIC 01, BSR 01, /137 W

R 160545Z SEP 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7000
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4268
CINCPAC FOR POLAD
AMCONSUL DANANG 974
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2548

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SAIGON 6160

SUBJ: LOWER HOUSE ELECTION CANDIDATES: DALAT

A. HO VAN PHU - BORN 1 APRIL 1931, BIEN HOA.
ARVN MAJOR. FORMER INSTRUCTOR AT VIETNAMESE COMMAND
AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE; NOW INSTRUCTOR AT THE POL-
WAR COLLEGE IN DALAT.

B. DUONG CONG HIEN - BORN 14 FEB 1944, HANOI M
SIP
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PAGE 2 RUMJIR 6160/2 C O N F I D E N T I A L
CATHOLIC. FORMER TEACHER AT ADRONG HIGH SCHOOL, DALAT;
PRESENTLY INTERPRETER IN THE DALAT-TUYEN DUC CENSUS
GRIEVANCE OFFICE. A CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF CENSUS GRIEVANCE
CHIEF NGUYEN HOANG, WHO IS A CANDIDATE FOR TUYEN DUC'S
SEAT. THROUGH HOANG HE MAY HAVE CONNECTION WITH TOAN
VIET BLOCK.

C. NGO VAN DZOANH - BORN 17 FEBRUARY 1928, HANOI.

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CATHOLIC, ARVN MAJOR. POSTRUCTOR AT THE DALAT MILITARY ACADAMY. SON OF INFLUENTIAL CATHOLIC LEADER, NGO VAN MINH WHO WAS CAMPAIGN REPRESENTATIVE OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE NGUYEN VAN THIEN IN DALAT. DZOANH WAS CONFIDENT OF VICTORY UNTIL HIS APPLICATION WAS REJECTED, AND MAY CONTEST THIS RULING.

3. THE FOLLOWING CANDIDATES WITHDREW:

A. NGUYEN VAN VO -BORN 2 SEPTEMBER 1936, DALAT. SECRETARY OF THE DALAT MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

PAGE 3 RUMJIR 6160/2 C O N F I D E N T I A L

B. VULE BA KHAM - BORN 5 MAY 1913, QUANG TRI. BUDDHIST. BUSINESSMAN WHO RESIDES IN LAM DONG; DEFEATED CANDIDATE IN 1966 CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY RACE IN DALAT.

C. NGUYEN VAN BONG - BORN 1913, HANOI, FARMER.

D. HOANG ANH TUAN - BORN 7 MAY 1932, HANOI, CATHOLIC. FRENCH EDUCATED. FORMERLY IN VIETNAMESE MOVIE INDUSTRY. DIRECTOR OF THE DALAT RADIO STATION. HUSBAND OF CANDIDATE NGO THI LIEN.

5. COMMENT:

A. THE 20 REMAINING CANDIDATES, THREE TIMES THE NUMBER IN LAST YEAR'S CA ELECTION, REPRESNT A WIDE VARIETY OF AGES, OCCUPATIONS, CLASSES AND RELIGIONS. THE MOTIVATIONS OF THE CANDIDATES VARY. SOME ARE SERIOUS CANDIDATES WHO HAVE LONG SHOWN AN INTEREST IN NATIONAL AFFAIRS. OTHERS APPEAR TO BE REPRESENTING CERTAIN GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS. SOME ARE PERENNIAL

PAGE 4 RUMJIR 6160/2 C O N F I D E N T I A L
CANDIDATES WHO SEEM TO ENTER EVERY ELECTION DESPITE

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REPEATED FAILURE. VIETNAMESE OBSERVERS SAY THAT THE YOUNGER CANDIDATES MAY BE SEEKING EXPERIENCE OR HOPING TO MAKE A NAME FOR THEMSELVES, AND THAT THE WEALTHY BUSINESSMEN MAY BE SEEKING PUBLICITY. THE CANDIDATES' DEPOSIT IS SMALL PAYMENT FOR THE ENHANCED REPUTATION ONE GAINS FROM BEING A PARTICIPANT IN CIVIL AFFAIRS. SOME VIETNAMESE OPINE THAT THE MILITARY AND POLICE OFFICERS HAVE BECOME CANDIDATES AS A WAY OF RESIGNING FROM THEIR PRESENT JOBS, OR AT LEAST OF OBTAINING A TWO-MONTHS' VACATION.

B. FORMER MAYOR, DINH VAN DE, NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMAN, LE THANH CHAU, AND COUNCILMAN NGUYEN DUY QUANG, APPEAR AT THIS POINT TO BE THE STRONGEST CONTENDERS. THE CATHOLIC CLERGY HAVEPROVEN TO BE THE STRONGEST POLITICAL FORCE IN THE CITY. AS LAST YEAR, THEIR SUPPORT COULD DETERMINE THE WINNER AND, AS THEY DO NOT APPEAR YET TO HAVE TAKEN A POSITION, COULD PROJECT SOME FOURTH CONTESTANT TO THE FORE.

GP-3. BUNKER